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Charmed reboot: zeitgeisty wannabe goes political and loses all the magic

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If you're slowly approaching 30s, chances are Charmed might just be one of your favorite TV shows you'd never wished to be rebooted. Yet, in spite of a strong backlash from fans worldwide and the original sisters Halliwell, who later changed their minds, the show was green lit with the promise to leave the original be, while creating a brand new sisterhood saga tailored for a new 'woke' generation. The timing, as the CW marketing team keeps on stressing, cannot be more perfect: October and Halloween aside, (*not to mention vampire fever finally dying down*), witches are the epitome of kick-ass woman, much alike to those who stand at the helm of #MeToo movement. Indeed, the reboot ticks a lot of boxes when it comes to on-screen representation and socio-political commentary, and does well to distance

itself from the original Charmed, so **where's the magic I wonder, peeking at the clock, suffering though one of the most insuffereble premiers of 2018.**

"This is not the witch-hunt," we hear over black as the show erupts into an argument between Mel (Melonie Diaz), and Maggie (Sarah Jeffery) Vera. Ironically, the first mention of witches has nothing to do with supernatural world. Their mother as we soon learn, Marisol Vera (Valerie Cruz) is involved in sexual harassment investigation on the campus, where she's a head of women's studies department. She, however, doesn't live to see the end. The mysterious, yet fairly easily unexplainable circumstances (*for us, muggles*) of her death, stir drama between the sisters who more often then not seem to be bickering for bickering sake.

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There's only so much you can squeeze into 40 minutes, but the writers waste no time brining in the third sister, which I first suspected might be estranged due to some family drama, and hence absent. Macy (Madeleine Mantock), however is simply oblivious. She grew up convinced her mother was dead, which given the twist in the beginning of the episode is… well.. true. Having moved to Hilltowne to accept the job at the college, she quickly snaps out of it, and without doing much of a due diligence winds up on the Vera's manor doorstep claiming that she just might be their half-sister. She's got a photograph to prove it, but the girls are hardly enthusiastic — *but nobody got time for that!*

As the girls get the first taste of their powers, they get kidnapped by Twitter obsessed Harry Greenwood, the British professor doubling as a Whitelighter, who is there to babysit the Charmed Ones, as well as ruin all the fun in discovering the witch craft. From the brief intro lecture on what's what and him taking 'me casa es su casa' way too literally and bossing the Charmed ones around to showing up like Microsoft Clippy in the middle of good ol' demon vanquishing, Harry is a disgrace of a guardian angel. Questionable dick jokes/references (*Yikes!*) and creepy vibe aside, he, according to spirit board is not to be trusted.

The episode wraps up with an anticipated reveal of Professor Thaine being not simply a sexual predator but a (*white walker budget cosplay*) demon. United to defend themselves and the world against the evil, Vera sisters make an ultimate choice of committing to witchcraft.

What I anticipated might have been a mix between Pretty Little Liars and Vampire Diaries, came out to be a tone-deaf Zeitgeisty knockoff, which reeks an early draft. With the writers evoking scientific angle, teasing a swift expansion of the Charmed universe beyond the walls and immediate neighborhood of their manor, the show demonstrates some great ambition for lasting more than one season. This might be problematic, as some of the latest supernatural series like Discovery of Witches and Originals spinoff are brining supernatural to the campus. Sure, it ties nicely with the #MeToo storyline, which despite of all it's merits felt forced and lacked subtilely. At times it felt as if the show is screaming at me in CAPS with all the catch phrases and slogans integrated in the heavy handed dialogue. Someway while checking all the boxes and trying to be everything at once CW's Charmed not only forgot about humor, but also lost the magic. Just as as Mel's Critical Inquiry, the episode comes off a bit too hostile, spelling everything out, leaving no room for interpretation.

Final score: 1,5 / 5

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